

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 SAJ-01 IO-11 ACDA-05 OMB-01

SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /094 W

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R 081440Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 923

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, AG, MO

SUBJECT: PONOMAREV MEETS WITH ALGERIANS

REF: ADDIS ABABA 2731

1. SUMMARY: WEEKEND CENTRAL PRESS CONTINUES TO REAFFIRM MOSCOW'S TILT TOWARD ALGIERS IN THE SAHARA DISPUTE. PRESS ALSO REPORTS THAT PONOMAREV MET WITH THE ALGERIAN DELEGATION IN TOWN FOR THE PARTY CONGRESS, BUT THE REPORT REVEALS LITTLE OF SUBSTANCE OTHER THAN THAT THE DISCUSSIONS ALLEGEDLY FOCUSED ON BILATERAL MATTERS. END SUMMMARY

2. PRAVDA MARCH 6 CARRIES A TWO-SENTENCE REPORT DATED ALGIERS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SAHARAN ARAB DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC HAS BEEN FORMED WITH MOHAMMED AMIN LAMIN AHMED AS THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. PRAVDA MARCH 8 CARRIES

VERY BRIEF TASS REPORTS THAT ALGIERS HAS RECONGNIZED THE SADR,
AND THAT MOROCCO HAS BROKEN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ALGERIA.
LOCAL RADIO ALSO ANNOUNCED FORMATION OF SADR.

3. PRAVDA MARCH 8 CARRIES A LONGER REPORT THAT POLITBURO CANDIDATE
MEMBER PONOMAREV AND DEPUATY DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE'S
INTERNATIONAL SECTION V.P. RUMYANTSEV HELD DISCUSSION WITH
MOHAMMED S. BEN YAHYA, HEAD OF THE ALGERIAN DELEGATION ATTENDING
THE 25TH PARTY CONGRESS. THE PRAVDA ACCOUNT REVEALS LITTLE OF
THE SUBSTANCE OF THE DISCUSSIONS, REPORTEDLY CONDUCTED IN A
"FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE," BUT STRESSES THEIR ALLEGED FOCUS ON
BILATERAL MATTERS. HOWEVER, THE SOVIETS DID NOTE "THE IMPORTANT
POSITIVE ROLE OF ALGERIA IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA," ITS PARTICI-
PARTION IN THE "NONALIGNED MOVEMENT," AND ITS OPPOSITION TO
"IMPERIALISM AND NEOCOLONIALISM."

4. COMMENT: PONOMAREV'S DECISION TO SEE THE ALGERIANS
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE CRUSH OF THE THE PARTY CONGRESS COULD
SUGGEST A HIGH LEVEL OF ALGERIAN PRESSURE. BY KEEPING MEETING ON
PARTY LEVEL, SOVIETS MAY WISH TO SHOW THAT THERE ARE LIMITS TO
THEIR BASICALLY POSITIVE RESPONSE.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, LIBERATION FRONTS, SELFDETERMINATION, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW03511
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760087-0715
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760384/aaaacwmv.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 ADDIS ABABA 2731
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 APR 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <20 APR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PONOMAREV MEETS WITH ALGERIANS
TAGS: PFOR, UR, AG, MO, (PONOMAREV)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006